

WRESTLING FORUM

MARCH 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 6

the "I'M NOT SURE THE WORLD WANTED TO WATCH" issue...

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IN MEMORY OF MR. PUNCTUALITY

Sorry to report that Mr. Promptness J. Punctuality died sometime in the last couple of months of a horrible death. He choked to death while trying to extricate his foot from his mouth. Although those close to Mr. P. can't quite put a finger on why he died, or even when he did, the bottom line is still the same. This bulletin has been late by a day or so the last couple of times and frankly, I just don't know what I can do to solve the problem. All of our staff members and correspondents have their stuff to me on time, but due to a variety of reasons (copier breakdowns and malfunctions, post office personnel who ignore stacks of bulletins in the mailing bins, and just flat out exhaustion on the editor's part) the bulletin still has its problems going out on time. I apologize for this; I hate being late. I used to be such a hard nose on deadlines that I was impossible to live with around the 15th or the 30th of each month. This year. I still get ulcers when we aren't out on time, but whatever it was that made me stick to deadlines is gone. I'm going to continue to press hard to be on time; but please understand if for some reason we aren't.

I said last time that you should all have the yearbooks in your hands by the time you read this. I'll say it again. We mailed out all but about ten of them on March 12. The ones that went first class had no problems and were to those who ordered them 1st class within three days. Today is the 25th, and I am still getting calls and letters from folks who ordered third class, wondering where in the %*#!\$@ their yearbook is at. Steve Yohe put it best when he wrote, "Does the word 'dipstick' mean anything to you?". I did check with the post office and they tell me that third class mail is handled "when they get around to it". Wonderful. If I had known that, they would have all gone out first class and I would have just upped the price by a buck. Oh well, live and learn I guess. Some people that I have checked with did get theirs via third class today so hopefully everyone who ordered has theirs by now. If not...contact me. We are currently sold out, however, if there is enough interest, I will print up another batch. Price is \$10.00 plus the buck for 1st class handling, but be sure and call before sending any money! Mary will take your name and we'll let you know when or if they become available. Phone number is (309) 289-2662. If you want to talk with me personally, I'm home after 11:30 pm MY TIME and you can call up to about 1:30am weeknights. Weekends...it's a lot like playing Russian Roulette. If I'm here, I'm here. If not, I'm not.

Also this is the issue we say goodbye to our good friend Grenville Clark whose picture has graced the 39¢ stamp it takes to get this thing to you. I understand that we will have a 6¢ increase in postage for the April 15th issue. There will be no price increase at present...not until I can guarantee on time delivery. I had planned on going to a bulk rate once we got 200 subscribers, but I find out that delivery of the Forum would take 10 days or more so even though we would save about 25¢ per issue on postage, we would suffer from dated news. So forget that notion. If you all have any suggestions on saving money on this thing, pass them along. Meanwhile, we'll just depend on new subscriptions to offset the higher postage costs.

This all means that we still publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day (in theory). Cost is \$1.25 per issue and you can subscribe for up to six months maximum.

Also something we're going to try and work on is the quality. The photo copier is just about to make its last copy i'm afraid, but we'll try to get it fixed somehow. Size of print is another area we're going to work on. How bout it folks? Tell us what you think and how to improve. Don't hold back. We need your input to get back on track. Enough of this. Let's check the barometer and all the other stuff...

THE WRESTLING BAROMETER

MARCH, 1988

BY JEFF SIEGEL

Welcome to the March edition of "The Wrestling Barometer", the monthly census of what's hot and what's not in professional wrestling found exclusively in Wrestling Forum!

Overall, an interesting month for the "Barometer". A hotly contested battle on the "Hot" side, with just under a half-dozen entries fighting for the top spot and no single one emerging as the unanimous choice. And it would've been the same story on the "Not" side were it not for a late surge by an old favorite--as you'll soon see.

As usual, we begin with a quick review of the procedure that's used for tallying "Barometer" entries: 5 points is awarded for a first place vote, 3 points is awarded for a second place vote, 1 point is awarded for a third place vote, and $\frac{1}{2}$ point is awarded for every item that is included on a voter's list from fourth place on. Then, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in this column. The minimum point total allows us to focus on the month's major trends.

Now, on to the March results:

WHAT'S HOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 20 POINTS)

1. The Varsity Club angle (31 points)
2. Gilbert/Hyatt in Memphis (31 points)
3. WM4 speculation (27 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
4. World Class resurgence (26 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
5. Crockett's WTBS counter to WM4 (22 points)

WHAT'S NOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 20 POINTS)

1. Dusty Rhodes' ego (38 points)
2. WM4 undercard (21 points)
3. Hercules-Dingo Warrior feud (20 points)
4. Baby Doll-Dusty angle (20 points)

Notes: Perhaps it can be attributed to the fact that the "Clash of the Champions" and hence, Virgil Runnels, were on everyone's mind more so than usual. Perhaps not. Whatever the case, Big Dust pulled away in the late going to score yet another convincing victory on--as Kevin Sullivan might say--"the dark side". This time, "Barometer" participants deemed the big man's ego to be the culprit. Not to be short-sighted, however, they also saw fit to cast enough votes for the aborted Baby Doll angle to earn that piece of booking mastery a fourth place finish. Where does the "Bull of the Woods" go from here? Well, there's the standing record of three consecutive first place "Barometer" finishes by Ted DiBiase and his "Million Dollar Man" angle. However, that--as most of you remember--was racked up on the "Hot" side of the "Barometer" ledger....It should also make Dusty feel good to see Eddie Gilbert's strong performance on the up side. While Dusty and company saw fit to gracelessly remove Eddie from the Crockett scene, Forum readers have indicated that it'll take more than that to downplay Gilbert's impressive workrate and energetic style. Only difference is, Memphis is now the benefactor....Second strong finish in a row for the Varsity Club. And, from all indications, it is the performances of Mike Rotundo and Rick Steiner that have been earning the accolades and not that of the Gamesmaster, Kevin Sullivan. Kind of a surprise...With "Super Sunday" now in the record

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AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

After my first story here, would someone be kind enough to wake me up?

Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond have taken the AWA tag team belts from the midnight Rockers at the latest set of TV tapes from Las Vegas. I have yet to see he match, but from the reports I've gotten on the bout, it was as good as what you could expect from these guys. Once again the rumors have started about a Memphis connection here, but there is very little to support those claims. Especially if the rumor mongers are relying solely on this title change. Here in the AWA, Tanaka and Diamond are the heels with the Rockers being faces. In Memphis, it's the other way around though.

Somebody must be looking out for wrestling fans as we've been spared an awful feud between Sheik Adnon El Kaissey and Baron Von Raschke. Sheik has once again departed and who knows where he'll find work. A few months ago he showed up at a Titan taping, but they didn't use him and for the most part, ignored his presence. The last time he appeared in the New York area anyway, the fans were unmerciful in their chants of "BILLY WHITE WOLF!". Well, that was the good news. The bad news is Baron is still around and they've found someone else for him to feud with in the person of Soldat Ustinov. Ustinov came in during a Baron interview and hit him over the head with the board. Mad Marc from Denver told me it sounded real bad, like the board was hollow. After thinking about it, I agree that one of the objects was probably hollow, but certainly not the board.

Medusa Micelli spent a little time away from the promotion having some plastic surgery done and I've been assured it was not a nose job. Next time you see her, it should be self explanatory. She's taken the role of managing Curt Hennig explaining that since she's a world's champion, she should manage a world's champion.

Stan Kowalski, better known as the Big K, is back in some sort of a role. He was supposed to manage, but he's decided against that in favor of what has been described to me as an interview spot. We will be seeing a new manager here though, but I don't have a name to go with the story yet. From what I've been told, all I can figure is that this guy is a rookie. I've been told the name, but then again, I have two different names which tells me that whoever it is hasn't decided on a name to use yet.

No Rock and Roll Express here, at least for now. There's been a dispute over money (isn't there always?) so Ricky and Robert are sitting at home wondering what happened.

Ricky Rice is getting a good push, but after seeing a few of his matches, I'm wondering if this Ricky Rice is the same one I saw in Chicago. This one has no clue as to what's going on in the ring and about the only resemblance he bears to the one I saw was the high dropkick. It could be a case of AWA-itis, but if he wants to use the AWA for bigger and better career moves, he'd better start concentrating on his matches...now.

Sunday Rasslin. A whole freakin' day of it! I must be nuts. We went to both the NWA show in Peoria (an afternoon show) and the WWF show in Springfield, IL (an evening TV taping) in the same day. What a contrast. The following is the NWA live report. I'll cover the WWF in the WWF section since it set up angles and such.

I should mention that Mary, Kelly and I were not alone. Mike Miller of Camanche Iowa drove down to Knoxville and he went with us to both shows. The grades are mine, but Mike agreed on most.

The show opened with Larry the Butcher Cameron pinning Johnny Love. It was good to be able to watch this one from the audience rather than from a manager's perspective (these were the same guys from Chicago who I managed in January, except that time Larry lost). Larry came to the ring and was shouting at everyone "You gonna know who I am!". He got to me (we were in the front row) and he was taken slightly aback and said, "You definitely already know who I am!". I said, "Yeah! And you need your manager!" That's as close as he came to smiling. Now realize that not a single person (well, those in the audience who are subscribers knew) had a clue as to who he was so he had to literally create his own heat. I seriously doubt if there is anyone in the independents who is better at that than Larry is. He had the crowd hating him. Johnny appearing was a complete surprise. His timing was off and he still doesn't have the babyface role down yet. He did a Ric Flair flip into the turnbuckles, but either his timing was off or he was in some pain when he did it; still a nice move. Larry won it with an awesome powerslam and the match earned a C+.

Steve Regal pinned Spike Huber using the ropes. These guys have known each other since they were roommates on Noah's Arc and have worked together almost as long. They went 15 minutes and the match was okay at best with a lot of complaining to the ref on Regal's part about hair and trunk pulling. That got old in a hurry, yet they continued it. I thought the ref was going to reverse the decision after he asked the crowd what happened but he didn't (imagine, 107 year old Mike Figarora doing a Hulk Hogan imitation cupping his hand to his ear). Grade C-.

Ron Garvin beat Ivan Koloff with a victory roll. Not a great match, but not a bad one either. Ivan is a master of heat. The best part of the match came after the final bell when they had to improvise an in-the-ring brawl as security took care of a fan who had had a little too much to drink and went after Ivan. Grade C. Side note...Eddie Sharkey was the ref for this one...it was the first time I had ever had a referee step out of the ring to talk with me and I felt a little funny having everyone in the building wondering what we were talking about (Hi, good to see ya, etc.).

The Road Warriors beat Warlord and Barbarian via DQ. The Roadies didn't have their theme music which hurt their reception. Come to think of it, the PA system was pretty bad all day. Hawk worked most of the match and it went about 10 minutes of non stop action. Hawk clotheslined Barbarian over the top rope and Barbie wound up in the spectators lap. I came out of my seat on that bump. Everyone, including Warlord worked their butts off and the end came with Ivan tripping Hawk as he came off the ropes. I never thought a match involving these four could be so good and I gave it a B+.

Ric Flair pinned Sting using the ropes. Flair made his entrance and made some snide comments about not being able to shoot a basketball with sixteen seconds left (Bradley University couldn't and ended up losing in the first round of the NCAA tournament...the Civic Center where this card was held is Bradley's home court). During the match, Flair relieved any doubts I had as to who the number one wrestler in the world today is. He put on a show. Sure he did all his routines

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(Flip into the buckles, face first fall, slapfest, etc), but they all flowed together so smoothly that it was almost scary. Sting was excellent as well, and this man is OVER in Peoria. This was one of the best three matches I've seen live and it got a solid A.

Attendance was 1883, which isn't bad considering their only outlet in Peoria is a weak UHF station 45 miles away and TBS. I talked with quite a few people after the show and basically the consensus was that Crockett has served notice on the fans in central Illinois that Titan is NOT the only show in town. All that I talked with hoped that they returned soon, and believe me...these people are going to tell their friends. Chicago isn't that far away (when it comes to booking shows) so Peoria could become a nice place for spot shows after Chicago cards. We sure hope so...just as long as they schedule them on the weekends (Titan always made the mistake of scheduling during the week).

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

HOT! HOT! HOT! That's how the angles coming out of here are as of late. Dusty and the whole NWA crew have made a turn around that is just simply unbelievable. Just three short months ago we were questioning the sanity of Jim Crockett for keeping Dusty around (I still do to a certain extent) but there are a couple of things here that are just great.

First of all, it would appear the the Fantastics have made the fans forget all about the Rock and Roll Express. And a lot of the credit has to go to the Fantastics themselves. They are working their butts off in order to get over and they appear to be friendly towards the crowd instead of obnoxious (which is how the R & R came across a lot of the time). Add that all to the fact that they put them in a tailor made feud and we've got what may well be the best feud of the year in 1988. On the recent syndicated show, they had a non title match between the Fantastics and the Midnight Express. The match went about 35 minutes and ended with the Fantastics copying the Rocket Launcher move and winning the bout. This carried over to the WTBS show the following Saturday and just as the show was about to end, they had a confrontation that was simply astounding. The brawl began at the podium and it (the podium) lasted about five whole seconds and chairs, microphones, backdrops, and anything else that wasn't permanently nailed down, soon followed suit. Wow!

Dusty seems to have just forgotten his feud with Larry Zbyszko. Actually, it ended before it got started (and I'm not saying that facetiously) when Dusty showed absolutely zero concern over the blackmail pictures that Baby Doll had (One caller suggested that after thinking the situation over, Dusty probably figured that all they could do would be to improve his image). Instead now, he's involved with a couple of feuds, one of which may never quite get off the ground!

The first was to be with Al Perez who is in with Gary Hart. This was a complete surprise to me as no one had mentioned it prior to his showing up on the show. I thought at first that Perez was in as a bayface as when they announced him on the TBS show, he was cheered wildly. It was clear, though, after his first interview, that he was a heel and set to feud with Dusty. This feud may be placed in limbo pending the outcome of this past weekend's events.

Magnum TA was being interviewed at ringside. They had just showed a tape of him using a baseball bat as an equalizer with JJ, Tully and Arn. He was talking about that incident when Tully confronted him. Before the two could come to blows, Barry Windham jumped in front of Tully. Tully hit him with one of the tightest punches that I've ever seen. Tully then attacked Magnum. Magnum was saved by Dusty who charged in knocking over everyone in sight including David Crockett (can you believe this...when he did that, I actually cheered for the Dream!).

The problem came when Jim Crockett himself came out to stop Dusty and Dusty took the bat to Jim. He then went to choking Tully with the bat and all the babyface wrestlers had to come off and pull him off. There has been no repercussions as yet, but the best guess (since they've been saying that the NWA board of governors will be meeting this next week) is that Dusty will be "suspended". Look for the return of the Midnight Rider if that in fact happens.

What's with the "smart" interviews here lately? Are they on purpose, or are they just slipping onto the broadcasts? Hawk did the first one, saying something about a "Bump" that someone took over the top rope. I didn't quite catch all of it. But then later, Barry and Lex were out doing an interview for their upcoming title match against Tully and Arn on the Clash of Champions and Lex was saying how they were tired of things happening to prevent them from becoming champs. He said, "We're tired of disqualification endings! We're tired of the ref bump.....ed into!" When Lex said that, Barry gave him one of those looks like "You idiot!" and then almost broke up when Lex finished and tried to cover it up.

Let's get on to Sunday's Clash of the Champions...I was told going into the show that Crockett intended to let Titan know once and for all there was some competition out there. They certainly accomplished that. Let's take a look at the individual matches.

JIMMY GARVIN VS MIKE ROTUNDO

This match was fought under "amateur rules" even though I always got disqualified in high school whenever I tried to bodyslam or dropkick an opponent. Anyway, they were scheduled for three - five minute rounds with a one count scoring a pinfall. The first round went the full 5:00 and ended with Rotundo trying to maneuver Garvin onto his back. Garvin controlled the first half and it was all Rotundo the second half. The second round only went :58 and the end came when Kevin Sullivan came up on the ring apron and Garvin going after him. Rotundo snuck in from behind and rolled him up for the one count. Jimmy lost the match but the antics were far from over. He got Rotundo in the brainbuster and Sullivan came in to attack Garvin. Jimmy was handling him pretty well until Rick Steiner hit the ring. The got in about 10 seconds worth of double teaming when Precious hit the ring with a 2 x 4 (I could have sworn I heard her yell, "HI-YO", but i'm sure it was just my imagination) and she clobbered Steiner with it. Then she grabbed Sullivan's coat hanger and started to choke him until Jimmy pulled her off. Sullivan recovered and tried to grab her and drag her back but she and Jimmy escaped. Not bad, but it would seem that Kevin's effectiveness has been destroyed by having him get beat up by a woman. This sets up a "Prince of Darkness match" at the first night of the Crockett Cup. I gave the match a C- with a B for the after match antics.

Next up was an interview with a returning Steve Williams. Doc did a babyface interview for the most part, although he will probably fall into the role of a twener or a rebel (neither babyface nor heel) for a while.

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS VS FANTASTICS

This was 10:19 of one of the best brawls they've done on the superstation. The Fantastics hit the ring like the Road Warriors and they just continued the brawl they started last week on TBS. Chairs, tables, and everything else went flying for the first two minutes before it even began to resemble a wrestling match. The heat from the live crowd was sustained throughout and there is no doubt that the fans have accepted Tommy and Bobby and forgotten the Rock and Roll Whoevers. The end came with the ME really working over Tommy and him needing a hot tag. He got it, but referee Randy Anderson wouldn't allow it because he didn't see it. Bobby Fulton then threw Anderson over the top rope and they went on to complete the rocket launcher on Eaton. Tommy Young came

in and counted the pinfall and awarded the belts to the Fantastics but since we've all seen this screw job ending a hundred times before, it was no surprise when Anderson came back in and reversed the decision. I thought the match was excellent and gave it a B+. It got that grade only because of the dumb ending that we've seen so many times.

Next up, they announced the top ten seeds for the Crockett Cup. hey are: 10-Ivan Koloff/Dick Murdoch; 9-Sting/Garvin; 8-Steiner/Rotundo; 7-Fantastics; 6-Luger/Windham; 5-Warlord/Barbarian; 4-Midnight Express; 3-Road Warriors; 2-Nikita Koloff/Dusty; 1-Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson.

ROAD WARRIORS/DUSTY RHODES VS IVAN/WARLORD/BARBARIAN

What can you say about a Texas Barbed wire match? They string the barbed wire around the ropes, winding it from top to bottom, so there aren't going to be a lot of whips in to the ropes. The whole thing only lasted 3:37, but the first juice came at :15 with Ivan blading. All six guys were in the ring at once and it was hard to follow. There wasn't that much blood (Ted Turner wouldn't allow it), at least there wasn't anyone (namely Dusty) hitting gusher like they usually do. Animal put a powerslam on (I think) Ivan and went for the pin. Barbarian came off the top rope with a headbutt, but Animal moved and Barbie hit Ivan. Animal then completed the pin. One other bit that I didn't like...the referee was on the outside all through until the end. He started climbing in before they went to the pin so you knew they were going to the finish. I wasn't impressed during the three and a half minutes and gave the match a C-. To be fair, a lot of the calls I got liked the match though.

Nikita's back as they did an interview with him next and he's back with hair! He made a reference to being close to someone who everyday was fighting for their life. Interesting. He seems to be coming back and planning on a feud with Ric Flair from what he said, although he directed a lot of the comments towards Tully for what he had done to Magnum on the TBS show. We'll see.

TULLY BLANCHARD/ARN ANDERSON VS LEX LUGER/BARRY WINDHAM

Everyone worked hard including Lex. Barry worked most of the match for the babyface side, but when Lex was in, he was good. Lex went for the backbreaker at 1:04 but was hit from behind. The middle of the match saw a dozen or so near falls on Windham (he's as good with the 2 3/4 counts as Flair). Again the heat was tremendous throughout. At the 8:00 mark, Lex finally got the hot tag and cleaned house. JJ jumped up on the ring apron with a chair and was in the process of handing it through the ropes when Lex grabbed the front of Arn's trunks and fell backwards, pulling Arn forward and head first into the chair. At the 9:35 mark, the referee slapped the mat for the third time and the Tag Titles had changed hands. This one got a B+.

STING VS RIC FLAIR

Sting was announced as being from Venice Beach, CA. Isn't that where that other guy with all the muscles claims to be from? Anyway, they had a panel of three judges with two other celebrities at ringside to determine the outcome of the match in case of a draw. Judges were Penthouse Pet of the Year Patty Mullen, Promoter Gary Juster, and NWA official Sandy Scott. The celebrities were Ken "Eddie Haskell" Osmond and some guy named Herbie (not the burger King guy but some kid with a strange haircut that made him look like his head was lopsided). The match started with a hot six minutes with lots of high spots and the usual Flair antics. That made me think that they wouldn't do a time limit draw, even though it had a shortened time limit of 45:00 instead of an hour. The momentum switched back and forth throughout and the heat was pretty sustained as well. Sting got his first Scorpion at the 25:00 mark, but Flair escaped under the ropes. Everytime Flair looked like he would get a good upper hand, Sting would do his warhoop and pound his chest like Tarzan. The only time Flair got an upper hand for any extended length of time was after Sting tried a crazy move and

wound up taking a good bump. The match saw some rest holds, but they were short and well spaced, coming at what would be appropriate times. Again, we saw some near falls and a couple that I thought were going down (even though I knew better). Sting had the scorpion on for the last thirty seconds and the match ended with a judges decision needed. Now this was stupid. Patty Mullen gave Ric the nod and Juster went with Sting. Sandy Scott then cast a vote for a draw and the match ended in a draw. That was the whole purpose of the judges fercryinoutloud! I gave the match an A- for the length, workrate, sustained heat and because it seemed to able to hold the interest of not only those live, but also mine. This A- was for both men, not just Flair as Sting was fantastic as well.

Crockett definitely made Titan aware of their presence. There was one ad early in the show for a Wrestlemania hotline, but it never made it to the air a second time. I can only guess that someone got a good chewing out for that even making it to the air the first time.

What made this show so successful was the fact that for the first time since they decided to compete with Titan, they used their brains when it came to promoting. They had it in Greensboro, one of their hottest cities. They customized the show to thier fans at the arena, not a nationwide audience. The result was something that should go over nationwide, just due to the live reaction. The fans popped at the right time and that alone should have created some excitement in the homes. Jim Ross, Tony Shivone and bob Caudle were all great in calling the action and that will also have a big impact on what the rest of the nation thought.

The beginning of the show had graphics that were as good a Titans and they even strung up the strobe lights from the rafters like Titan does for TV tapings (to simulate flashbulbs).

And get this. One of the biggest complaints here in the newsletters had been the practice of interrupting matches with commercials. Not one single match was interrupted today. Sure, we got seven minutes worth of commercials at once between matches, but that's just extra time to go to the fridge and stock up on goodies. They actually showed a 45:00 match without one single commercial. Impressive.

What it comes down to is this. The NWA is back in a competitive role with Titan. They need to hang on to the guys they have now and work extra hard while Titan is taking their after-Wrestlemania vacation. With what Titan has set up and the temporary departure of Mr. Hogan., this could be the most opportune time for Crockett to make an all out assault. It's obvious that Ted Turner is helping and they might as well use his help to the max.

One way they'll be using Ted and the Superstation is through the Sunday afternoon show. It will now be called the NWA Main Event and will show main events from arenas around the contry. I think I said last issue that the Saturday show will be used to sell tickets by setting up angles. The Sunday show will be the wrestling program that fans have dreamed about with full length matches (except these will have to have the commercials).

One thing is for sure. This is going to be an interesting summer season. The year end balloting is something I'm looking forward to already.

P E N C I L P O I N T S

READER REPORT CARD

Six of your subscribers (plus my son Chris) all got together for Wrestlemania and we thought you might like to know how we all graded the affair.

-DAN REILLY-

-Enfield, CT-

EDITOR: Thanks! Here's the key to the subscribers listed below...1-

Ron Lemieux; 2-Dan Reilly; 3-Chris Reilly; 4-Ted Bruttomesso; 5-Al DeVasto; 6-Chris Shinn; 7-Allen Bevaes.

MATCH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Battle Royal	C-	D	F-	C-	C-	D+	C-
Savage/Valentine	D+	B	B+	D	B	C	C
Strike/Demo	B	B+	A	B+	B+	A-	B
Islanders/Dogs	C-	D	C+	C-	D	D+	C-
HTM/Beefy	C-	C-	C+	C	C-	D-	C
Hulk/Andre	C+	B	A	B	B+	A-	A-
Reed/Savage	D+	F	C-	D-	C	C-	F
DiBiase/Muraco	B	B+	C+	A-	B+	B-	B
Rude/Roberts	C+	B	B	C+	B-	B+	C-
DiBiase/Duggan	C	C	B	C-	B	C+	C+
Bravo/Muraco	B	B	B	C+	B-	C+	B-
Steam/Valentine	C	B	B+	B	B-	C+	B
Herc/Warrior	D	F	D+	D	D-	F+	F
Savage/Gang	D-	D-	C	D-	D-	F+	F
Savage/DiBiase	C+	B-	B+	B-	B-	C-	B-
OVERALL SHOW	C	C	B	C-	C-	D+	C-

EDITOR AGAIN: It's nice to see some varying opinions, especially in light of what you'll be reading in a few minutes (my opinions).

PRE-WRESTLEMANIA THOUGHTS

I have to agree with Savage winning WMIV, but I'd never book it that way. All Macho Man can do as champ is fight guys Hogan's already beaten, while DiBiase opens up all sorts of intriguing possibilities, as well as title shots for all those face contenders. I think Vince has the wrong idea when it comes to Wrestlemanias. It shouldn't be perceived by the viewer as the closing of a book, but should provide some spark to draw the viewer back. Instead they book the show to close out most of the interesting angles, launch few interesting new ones, and then sit back for the self fulfilling prophecy (poor post WM gates) to come true.

-BILL KUNKEL-

-Woodhaven, NY-

EMILY'S BACK...AGAIN

What's all this business about the WWF trying to find someone besides Hogan who can draw? They really don't have to look vary far. Just make Jesse Ventura champion. He can draw. I know. I saw him on the game show "Win, Lose, or Draw" and he was pretty good. Now I know he had to draw fast, but still, he proved how good he can draw when he has to. Maybe Vince should take some of the megabucks he gets at Wrestlemania and sign some of his guys up for art classes so they can all learn to draw. I'll write again soon.

-EMILY LATRELLA-

-New York City-

STRANGE BUT TRUE

If the WWF tag team titles change hands at Wrestlemania, Krusher Kruschev would become one of the few men in recent history to hold both the WWF and NWA tag team titles (once in his Russian persona and once in his Demolition get up). I don't see it happening, but what if Barry and Lex would win the NWA tag titles on the same day? Then Barry would also fall into that category as he was champion in the WWF with Mike Rotundo. Stranger things have happened.

-JOHN HUNTER-

-Chicago, IL-

YEARBOOK COMMENT

The yearbook was as good as I suspected it would be and was well worth the wait. One correction you might want to make though. In double Jeopardy, you gave the answer "a roll of dimes". I think the correct question should have been "What was the AWA wrestlers' payoff for any given night?"

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Up North-

QUESTIONS...I'VE GOT QUESTIONS...

Is this Vince Apollo guy trying to be Gino Hernandez or is he just naturally that way? Has anyone his age taken better bumps than Ivan Koloff? Are Lord Littlebrook and Black Bart related? Who has more hair - Hulk Hogan or Sergeant Slaughter (Maybe they can get one of those hair transplants from George Steele's back)? Ail right - let's decide once and for all - who is the best teeny bopper tag team - the rock and Roll Express, the Midnight Express or the Fantastics? Do all Russians necessarily have to be bald? Why isn't Larry Zbyszko a horseman by now? Isn't it amazing how the most bland faces can really become entertaining as heels (Cases in point - Terry Taylor, Mike Rotundo, Islanders)? Or is it Rotunda? Are any of the seemingly hundreds of Strongbows out there related? Aren't all of the youngbloods? Does anyone have more fun at work than the Midnight Express? Is there a more creative booker than Jerry Lawler? Has anyone actually seen Roddy Piper in a movie? Wouldn't you like to get to know Jake Roberts a little better? Why is Chris Adams always getting his butt kicked in skits? Shouldn't World Class turn this guy the Real Thing and try to get promotional bucks from Coke?...I can see it now - "Weighing in at 253 pounds, he hails from Atlanta GA, he is...Dr. Pepper!"

-LANCE LEVINE-

-Des Plains, IL-

LEARNING TO LIKE THE INDEPENDENTS

I used to be the type of fan who wanted to only see the headliners in matches live. I knew the business was "worked" but still I could hardly wait to see a feud with big names come to town. I've changed. Through your bulletin (and Dave's Observer) I've learned to appreciate the finer qualities of a match; how it builds and follows to a conclusion with all moves being perfectly timed. I find myself more critical now of the big name feuds and surprisingly, would just as soon see an independent show where I know the guys are going to work their butts off than just see the personal appearances the WWF guys make. It took a long time, but I'm learning to like the smaller groups.

-NAME WITHHELD-

-Chicago, IL-

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH

There were certainly no shortage of good nominees for our prestigious dipstick award this month. Once again, I have placed myself among those in nomination for a variety of reasons, most of which are chronicled on page two. Still, some of the blame for my situation must be shouldered by the US Postal Service so I'll name myself and the post office as honorary runners-up.

Dusty Rhodes is also among the nominees this time for making a jackass out of himself with his threats of "coming down your chimney and chokin' your kids this christmas". Dusty, however, has made a career of making a jackass out of himself so we've come to expect such garbage from him. Therefore, Dusty is again a runner up.

Eddie Shwartz of WGN Radio is a first time nominee and a practical joke on his part came close to erupting in fireworks. Eddie has a talk show from 11pm-? on Chicago's WGN, a 50,000 watt radio station that covers most of the midwest. On the Friday night prior to Wrestlemania he had as a guest, Dave Meltzer. No problem; Dave's a regular on his show. But Eddie got cute and put Bobby Heenan on with Dave. Neither knew the other was going to be on. Nothing happened but Shwartz, who should have known better, almost had a situation he couldn't handle.

This month's dipstick goes to Brother Ernest Angel who is working in Memphis. His character, that of being a parody of TV evangelists, is excusable as TV evangelists tend to parody themselves. Brother Earnest has also toned down his act on TV from the first time he was on. That is commendable. But at live shows, the act has not only not been toned down, he has played up the act even more. Several fans from the Memphis area have phoned to decrbe his act anywhere from Blasphemous to just plain bad taste. His character has gone beyond making fun of TV preachers and religion to being an insult to Christians everywhere. This is a good example of cheap heat and a worthy recipient of March's dipstick of the month.

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH

I can't say enough about how good the Clash of Champions on TBS was. Jim Crockett deserves a lot of credit for producing such a top notch show on live TV, one that was tons better than either of his failed Pay Per View Events.

However, Ted Turner is this month's winner. Without his help, Crockett would not have had the medium on which to produce the show. And without Turner, another very important aspect of the show might have been completely destroyed, that being the limited use of commercials.

WTBS loaded up the beginning of the show with a lot of advertisements, but not a single second of any match was missed due to commercials. No doubt the lack thereof, especially considering the Flair Sting match went for 45 minutes without a commercial break, cost Turner a pretty penny. The fact that Ted had enough confidence in Crockett and his product to sacrifice valuable ad revenues shows not only his commitment to the sport of professional wrestling but also to quality programming. His gamble has already paid off in our praise of his efforts. Let's hope that continues throughout the ranks of fandom. A thank you note from our staff is in the mail already.

MEMPHIS

The past couple of weeks have revolved almost exclusively around the Lawler-Gilbert feud and this seems to have breathed some life back into the promotion. However, there is a persistent rumor that Eddie Gilbert has been offered the job as head booker for Fuller's USA promotion and if he takes the job, it would be in direct competition with this group. The ego trip he would get from calling all the shots might be self gratifying, but he has a clear future as the king of Memphis wrestling so whether or not he takes the job is still up in the air. Which ever decision he makes will be the biggest of his career. If he stays, his future is secure. If he leaves, he probably won't be invited back and he will always be wondering about job security. Dusty would never take him back and guys his size are invisible in the WWF.

Meanwhile, what has happened to intensify the feud is this: Eddie enjoys burning people with his fireballs. They pulled out an angle from 1985 to run to get things over and from all appearance, they certainly have. As we reported last issue, Lawler is gone with a burn he suffered as a result of the fireball. He was on the phone with Eddie Marlin and was talking about doctor's orders not to return. Eddie came out and threw a fireball at Jerry Jarrett (Eddie Marlin's son-in-law) and burned him. Since the show is shown live in Memphis (and naturally Jerry was watching) he called back and issued a challenge to Gilbert in the Monday night show at Mid South Coliseum. The next week a similar incident happened as well.

Randy Hales was doing the color commentary on the show this week along with Lance Russell. When Eddie came out to wrestle, Missy Hyatt went in to one of her "I want my way" routines trying to get to do the color commentary. Randy wouldn't let her and Eddie came out of the ring to argue Missy's case (resulted in a count out victory for the jobber). He threw a fireball at Randy and Randy played the bit to the hilt. He looked as scared as I've ever seen anyone (of course that may have been natural since Gilbert is known to use too much flash paper) and he sold the fireball as well as most of the wrestlers. So around the circuit, we're seeing Eddie Marlin team with Jeff Jarrett (possibly the only time in history that we've had a grandfather-grandson team) taking on combinations of Eddie, Tommy or Doug Gilbert.

Brother Earnest Angel is still hacking away. He has a segment now that he calls "Quiet Time" which is a take off of the TV evangelists once again. He's still building Wrestling USA, a village of some sort for wrestlers and asking for contributions (some of the stuff he's done, like reading letters from people who have supposedly abandoned their 90 year old mother in order to send money is funny). He is heading up what he calls the coalition which is set up to put people out of wrestling who don't belong in wrestling. He's also saying that they will re write history (David and Goliath) when Max Paine takes on Ken Wayne. Brickhouse Brown is back and is part of this coalition, but his role has been drastically reduced.

One thing they are doing when they have a weak card lined up is advertise it as part of the Renegades Rampage tournament. That adds some credibility to the weak card at the same time allows them to have some not so great cards lined up.

Big Jim Kathy, who reportedly played for the Baltimore Colts (or at least the Colts) is in and part of the coalition as well. Don Bass is in and out so he's just part time.

Crowds are picking up as a result of Lawler's return. This group is going to be very dependent on whether Eddie Gilbert decides to stay or leave. The last time they had this good of a feud was early last year with Lawler vs Austin Idol.

CALGARY STAMPEDE

Chris Benoit has won the Commonwealth Mid Heavyweight championship by defeating Gamma Singh. Singh dropped the strap after K. C. Houston, who was at ringside to help Singh, threw powder at Benoit. Chris ducked, the powder hit Singh and Benoit went on to gain the pinfall and the championship.

Vince McMahon has once again made his presence felt here. Davey Boy Smith was scheduled to head in for some spot show during the Wrestlemania break, but but Vince changed his mind, so Davey Boy will just have to remain on hiatus with everyone else. Meanwhile, Owen Hart will be Titan bound after a trip to Japan in May. There may be something more involved here than meets the eye. Owen appeared at the Winston-Salem TV tapings and did a job for Hercules. There were some hard feelings between the Stampede group and Titan for that, but apparently the difference has been resolved. I understand that while the differences existed, there were some threats involving the firing of Davey Boy Smith, Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart. There. I've already told you more than I know.

I guess that's one of the strange things about this promotion that I still don't quite understand. Vince will occasionally let his guys (mainly those related to the Hart family) go out to Stampede to work. On the tape I got from Trent Walters (our faithful correspondent from up north), they showed a match between Bret and Davey Boy. Bret was on TV with his Tag Team title belt from the WWF. I guess maybe since Vince uses Stampede as somewhat of a training ground for newcomers (Bulldogs, Outback Jack, etc) this is part of the agreement. Still, I find it strange.

In other news, Bad Company may be headed to the Crockett Cup. Once again the threats from the WWF are flying if this happens. Should be interesting.

Cuban Assassin has turned babyface. We can also smell a turn coming with Johnny Holiday. Holiday is getting a nice push presently. His role right now is that of a ladies man.

You may be seeing Sharkey's Terminators (Rigs and Wolf) soon. There is an effort on everyone's part to get them booked here and they could prove to be a welcome relief from all of the Singhs running around. The Terminators were very difficult to work somewhere regularly when I met with them in London, and surprisingly they weren't all that interested in getting a push. They were more concerned about working regularly.

One other thing I've never mentioned about Stampede that I find interesting. They have a unique system of DQ'ing wrestlers. The referee will hand out a yellow card for a rule infraction and after two of those, the wrestler gets a red one signifying a DQ. I'm not sure why they do it that way other than it lets the fans know how close a guy is to being DQ'd. I suppose in certain cases (especially in the case of a heel ref) it could be used to build the match to a bit of climax.

THE NIGHT WRESTLING WENT CLASSY
PRO WRESTLING COMES TO THE FORTUNE 500
(PART TWO)

BY JEFF SIEGEL

As I headed down to the Chicago Marriott on Sunday night, January 24, I thought about what was soon to begin. Here, on Michigan Avenue, in the heart of Chicago, we were going to stage the first-ever, completely customized, professional wrestling event for a major U.S. corporation. "A.D.D. WrestleRock" was about to kick off and only one thing was for sure: Corporate America would never be the same.

I entered the Marriott's Grand Ballroom at about 6:30 PM. where our crew of more than a dozen stagehands were erecting the Broadway-style staging that would provide the setting for the next morning's opening business session.

My "WrestleRock" crew was due into Chicago's Midway Airport at 7:30; that meant they'd arrive at the hotel by 8:00 or so. I went to the front desk and told the young lady to keep an eye out for a group of eight "big guys" who should be arriving shortly. I told her that I'd be in the Grand Ballroom, and that she should call me when they came in. "What do they look like?" she asked me quite innocently. "Don't worry," I said, "you'll have no trouble figuring out who they are."

And she didn't. About 45 minutes later, she called the Ballroom. "Mr. Siegel," she said and I detected a slight tremor in her voice, "I think your friends are here. They've got mohawk haircuts and lots of earrings, right???"

I checked them into their \$175-a-night rooms, then handed out the "A.D.D. WrestleRock" ringwear. The faces each received shimmering black full-length robes, trunks, and the appropriate "props" (more on this to come). The heels were given black trunks and tights--and everyone's outfit bore the designated logos (more on this to come, too).

By 8:45, we assembled a small group to go out for dinner. The Terminators--Dan Rignoti and Doug Fisher, Eddie Sharkey, Ray Whebbe and myself headed to Pizzeria Dues, probably Chicago's number one spot for deep dish pizza. Shortly after we'd ordered, Larry Cameron and Johnny Love joined us. The Top Guns--Derrick Dukes and Ricky Rice--opted for room service this evening.

There would be no "business" discussed at this meal; I'd decided to leave that for the meeting that was scheduled for noon the next day. Instead, the only business we talked about was the one that was near and dear to each of us: professional wrestling. The pitchers of beer went down faster and easier as the stories and anecdotes became funnier and more entertaining.

As we left Dues, the cashier asked Doug if "we" were professional wrestlers. "We sure are," he answered her, "and this guy is the baddest of the bunch," he said as he put his hand on my shoulder. I smiled, turned around, and slapped Doug's chest with my best impression of a Ric Flair chop. Doug didn't budge; I felt the backlash down to the very bottom of my "intimidating" five-foot-six frame.

Monday at noon we convened in Ray's room for our first official "meeting". Joining us were Ron Peterson (who had driven the ring down from Minneapolis and would be handling its set-up and teardown), as well as three associates from my company--the Executive Producer, Producer and Stage Manager for the overall Acme meeting. They stood in awe of the group.

First, we went over everyone's character: The Termies would be "The Secret Reagent Men"--"ax" and "Spike"--reagents being one of Acme's most competitive product lines....Dukes and Rice would be "The A.D.D. Untouchables" (A bit of background here: Acme's theme for the meeting was "The Untouchables", a reflection on the enormous market share that has made them "untouchable" in the marketplace and the meeting's lo-

cation--Chicago--the home of the original "Untouchables")...Larry Cameron would be "Smasher Syva"--Syva being Acme's main competitor in a key market...Johnny Love would be "The Amazing Acme", the reigning "Diagnostics Heavyweight Champion of the World" and the defender of the company's name...and last, but no means least, Jon (who had yet to arrive in Chicago) would be Smasher Syva's manager--Synbad T. Eccentric--a moniker derived from the name of Syva's "parent company", Syntax.

Next, we reviewed the storylines for the evening. Obviously, the heels would be going down for the count in both matches. As representatives of Acme's competition, they had to get their comeuppance. We talked about the need for some exceptional high spots, good sustained action, and the kind of bumps that would elicit "oohs" and "ahhs" from the audience comprised primarily of marks. We checked through the "cheat sheets", making it clear to everyone what the different phrases meant and how they could be used to draw some amazing heat. Finally, we went over the finishes.

In the meantime, the folks from my office stood by and listened, completely confused by the use of words like "work", "high spots", "bumps", "heat", and so on. In its own distorted way, it was worth the price of admission.

Now, the game plan was in place. Everyone was told to meet backstage in the Ballroom at 6:00. Show time was at seven.

At about 2:30, the hotel labor had finished breaking down the auditorium-style seating from the morning session, and we began to set up the Ballroom for "A.D.D. WrestleRock". On one side, the "Booze Brothers" were stacking giant speakers and positioning countless musical instruments. On the other, our "wrestling arena" began to take shape.

First, the bleachers went up--suitable for an audience of 500. Then, the expansive lighting grid was suspended from the ceiling. Next, the ring was assembled. On it went--"A.D.D. WrestleRock" banners were draped over eachside of the ring apron. A microphone was set up under the ring, and speakers were hung from the lighting grid and stationed under the bleachers for a total stereo effect.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Marriott Grand Ballroom began to capture the flavor of "A.D.D. WrestleRock" as well: Numerous food stands were set up, including hot dog, popcorn and hot pretzel carts...Bars were stationed around the room...A mini-ring was constructed in the middle of the room, where it would soon house two eight-foot tall ice sculptures of professional wrestlers...Wrestling posters were plastered on the walls...and the waiters and waitresses prepared for the party by donning wrestling T-shirts and celebrity masks.

At around 5:00 PM, Jon arrived in the Ballroom. We went over his Synbad T. Eccentric character and the role he would play. He had brought along his own "ringwear": a hallacious combination of stripes and plaids, accented by an utterly nauseating lime green sportsjacket, sunglasses, and a cap. I provided him with his briefcase, the sides of which displayed the name "Syva" in obnoxiously large lettering that begged to be hated by any Acme salesperson. Yes, indeed--I had asked Jon to portray the sleaziest, most distrustful salesman he could dream up, and he didn't let me down.

At 6:00, the wrestlers began to file in. The Termies bounced around the ring a bit to loosen up. Those in the room stopped dead in their tracks when they heard the first thud--courtesy of a bodyslam--as it echoed from ceiling to floor and back again.

The rest of the gang drifted in and began to suit up. At 6:30, I changed into my ring announcer's "uniform": black designer tux with red bow tie and cummerbund. Howard Finkel, eat your heart out, I thought.

The doors opened at 6:45. The crowd surged into the room, filling

the stands in minutes. At the end of each row of bleachers was a large tub filled with an impressive assortment of imported and domestic beers. Next to each tub was a stack of "A.D.D. WrestleRock" programs. Both the beer and the programs went fast.

The crowd began to chant. The video camera started rollong (we had decided to videotape the Monday night show only).

At 7:00 sharp I made my way to the ring, passed through the ropes, and picked up the microphone. The crowd reacted. Two minutes later, referee Sharkey joined me. You could just tell the crowd was pumped just by the electricity in the air. The whole situation felt great.

The bell rang several times and I welcomed the crowd to "A.D.D. WrestleRock", my voice booming through the room. They responded with a roar.

"The first event," I announced, "is a special tag team grudge match!" With that, the room filled with the Road Warrior's music--Black Sabbath's "Ironman." Some of the audience must've recognized it as they began to shout in acknowledgement.

The spotlights came up on the aisle leading from backstage to the ring, and out came "The Secret Reagent Men"--black tights, black trunks ("Kodak" and "Dupont"--more competition's logos--on their respective tails), and ominous Roadies-style face paint. They circled ringside, jawing at the crowd and being outright nasty.

As they entered the ring and passed by me, Dan asked me "if my wife knew where I was tonight", while Doug pushed me backwards with a quick poke to the shoulder. That was my bump for the night.

Next, "The A.D.D. Untouchables" were introduced to the sound of the meeting's original theme song, "We're the Untouchables!" Out came Derrick and Ricky in sparkling black robes, hot white fedoras, and dark sunglasses. Their trunks sported the "Utouchables" artwork that was used throughout the Acme meeting. The crowd popped as "The A.D.D. Untouchables" charged around ringside, high-fiving the guys and hugging the ladies.

Before the bell to signal the start of the match, Acme's Vice Presidents of Sales and Marketing were invited to the ring. I introduced them, while the "Reagent Men" threw a couple of phantom punches in their direction ("Whatever you do," I had told Dan and Doug, "DO NOT CONNECT!") Then, they made their way over to the "A.D.D. Untouchables", patted them on the back, and raised their hands as the crowd screamed.

The match itself was four-star. It went 18:20, with lots of high spots and some nifty series that were indicative of the many times the Termies and Top Guns had worked together before. The crowd popped time and time again as the guys brought them up and down and "told a story" that would've made Dave Meltzer proud.

At the finish, Ricky pinned Dan, and the crowd couldn't have been happier.

Larry and Johnny were up next in the main event. Larry entered first with Jon to the "Midnight Express" theme. Johnny followed as Bonnie Tyler's "Holding Out For A Hero" played.

There are few people in the business who are better at working a crowd than Larry Cameron--and it showed. With Jon's able assistance, as well as the assistance of the tubs of beer that were constantly being refilled, the Acme audience had reached a fevered pitch.

Larry and Johnny worked a solid three-and-a-half star match before Johnny emerged victorious in just over fifteen minutes. "The Amazing Acme" had retained the "Diagnostics Heavyweight Championship of the World", and the crowd got into it.

Johnny grabbed the mike from me: "Hey Acme, we're number one! Now let's rock and roll with the Booze Brothers!" Instantaneously, the Booze Brothers began to play. The crowd left the stands and headed

for the other end of the Ballroom, where they would party for another solid four hours.

The night was an unqualified success. Now all we had to do was repeat it on Thursday.

Tuesday and Wednesday were free days for the wrestlers. On Tuesday night, we gathered in Ray's room for a video party that lasted into the wee hours of the morning. We looked at tapes from Japan, Mexico, and around the U.S., downing several buckets of Chicago's best chicken and ribs.

Wednesday night, the Termies had managed to book themselves into an independent show being run about 35 miles outside of Chicago by Sam Dicero's new "Windy City Wrestling" group (Sam used to work as "Madd Maxx"). We headed out to Chicago Ridge in my Nissan Sentra (I don't think I'd ever had over 1000 pounds in it at one time before). The show at "Cat's Lounge" drew about 250 and wasn't anything to write home about. The Termies worked against the "Beach Boys" in the main event (one of whom was AWA jobber Sonny Rogers), getting disqualified and setting up the rematch.

If Monday night's "A.D.D. WrestleRock" was good, Thursday's was even better. Our crowd was larger and rowdier, as these were the Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Chicago Divisions of Acme (nuff said!)

We made some minor changes in the program: We reversed the order of the matches, leading off with the singles match and building towards the tag team attraction...The Termies and Top Guns came up with a double-pin finish that really ended things with a bang...and Ray stepped in to replace Jon as Synbad T. Eccentric.

Again, each of the guys worked their tail off. And again, the crowd responded in full force. Admittedly, I may be a little biased in my assessment. However, I have attended no more than a handful of wrestling shows where the heat, excitement, work rate and crowd reaction have been as good. And I honestly believe that.

How successful was "A.D.D. WrestleRock"? Well, as I write this piece, we are currently proposing it to two other clients. Our sales force believes that we can sell in on an average of a half-dozen times a year. And several of our other eight offices around the country have caught wind of it and are beginning to ask questions. In fact, we're in the process of producing a three-minute highlights tape that will serve as an all-important promotional tool for us.

Indeed, "A.D.D. WrestleRock" was a great experience for everyone involved: The PWA wrestlers got to work an exciting event in front of a supercharged crowd and got paid well for it...Acme got a super show that their sales-people are still talking about...Our company got an extremely happy client and a dynamite new concept out of it... And for me, personally, it was one of the most enjoyable and successful projects I've ever had the pleasure to work on (in fact, I'm now waiting for the offers to pour in with weekend work as a ring announcer or play-by-play commentator).

But not to be forgotten, for professional wrestling, it was the night it came to the Fortune 500--and went classy.

BORED SILLY IN SPRINGFIELD

I haven't bothered to count the number of squash matches we saw. It was close to twenty. Even the dark matches were awful (Honky & Valentine vs Patera and Beefcake, JYD vs Bad News Allen). The only thing that kept me awake was the attention I was getting from Titan personnel. I guess you could say that I was so bored, I decided to get a little ornery...It started with Kelly standing on my lap (we had front row seats again) and one of the camera men thinking that would make a great shot. He had us on camera before I knew what he was doing and once I noticed it I just had to do something. I told Kelly that we were on TV and to tell the camera how old she was going to be. She complied, holding up four fingers. I did the same. Almost immediately the camera guy went nuts and almost dropped his camera. I would imagine they'll either cut the "Four Horsemen" salute or make some reference to us enjoying Wrestlemania IV so much. That was just the beginning.

Now as most of you know, instead of making written notes at wrestling cards, I instead use a hand held tape recorder just because it's easier. Being in the front row with that got a lot of attention from the WWF brass. Steve Taylor, ringside photographer, came up just after the Horsemen salute and asked what I used the recorder for. I explained. About a half hour later, Blackjack Lanza came up and said, "Do you have a video camera?" pointing at the tape recorder. What a technological genius this man is. I explained what it was and he asked what I used it for. I said, "For results. Wanna say 'Hi' to Dave Meltzer?" I figure now that that must be the key phrase for getting rid of Titan personnel that you don't want to talk with coz he yelled, "NO!" and stormed off. Then towards the end of the evening, the ring attendant came up and asked my name. He told me I looked familiar. Right. I told him my name and added, "Just tell the boys I do a Kay-Fabe sheet, okay?" He must have relayed the information because later when one of the wrestlers came out, he walked over by me and said to his partner, "It ain't Dave." So, if you want to freak out the Titan people at your next live show, just get yourself a handheld tape recorder and sit in the front row.

Other comments on the show (I'm not going to list all those squashes): Dave Hebner was the referee for the night and he and some of the ringsiders had a constant battle going on. He even insulted me of all people! His biggest fan and he was on my case! Junkyard Dog (allegedly) wrestled twice. He worked (or at least was in the ring) in the opening match which I missed because we were late (I can live with that) and then again against Bad News Allen. Allen was playing with him and I think made him stay in the ring a lot longer than he wanted. Bad News got DQ'd for headbutting the referee. By the end of the match, JYD looked like he was in serious need of oxygen. This has to be the only guy in the biz who can blow up by just shaking hands. There were a couple of jobbers worth mentioning. One was named either Kevin or Joe Wackens and he wrestled Bad News and took a tremendous beating. The guy never even got his ring jacket off (probably because he only weighed about 180 pounds and they were trying to hide that). He did a spin off a clothesline that dropped my jaw. I didn't catch the other guy's name but he worked with Greg Valentine early.

The show was the Challenge show and should air this weekend and next I would guess. I should be a lot more visible than on the Superstars tape from Peoria as I'm in the front row on the corner and whenever there was a tag match, the partner was always in my corner (usually the heels).

As for the main event, Hogan and Hacksaw Duggan beat Andre and Ted in 10:30. The crowd popped big for Hogan, but the heat died a miserable death after the shirt-tearing off ceremony. Every one seemed to work decently and Ted solidified his spot as the second best wrestler in

world with his performance (he worked three times this night). I almost gagged when Hogan led the crowd in choruses of "HI-YO!". The end of the match came when Hogan was pounding on DiBiase and Andre came in the ring. Hulk clotheslined him and Andre fell backwards, tying his arms up in the ropes. DiBiase then fell victim to the dreaded leg drop and in three seconds it was posing time.

Since I'm writing this part of the report a few days before Wrestlemania, about all I can tell you is what happened in Springfield to set up angles then make the report on Wrestlemania itself.

It's obvious from the taping that Jimmy Hart is going to be the one to lose his hair at the big show. Jimmy came to ringside with his charges two or three times with his hair tucked up underneath of a silly looking beret. He must have borrowed it from Frenchie Martin. Anyway, I yelled at him, "Hey Jimmy! What'd ya do? Lose your hair at Wrestlemania?" and he turned around and told me that WMIV was still a week away. I told him, "Yeah, but this show is being taped for AFTER WMIV". He just smiled and winked.

Also, Rick Rude is doing something new...he's choosing a girl from the audience to be he recipient of "the Rude Awakening". No, not his version of the DDT, but one of those knock down drag out kisses like you see in the movies. Yawn. I understand that the previous night in Cape Gerardo, MO (they may have taped the Superstars show from there) that the girl he chose was Jake Roberts' wife and that may start a feud with those two. Also scheduled to feud will be Dino Bravo and Ken Patera. In the tag match, Patera looked absolutely pitiful throwing punches than bordered on the line of being phantom punches.

Strike Force appeared with belts in hand, so it appears they will keep the titles this Sunday. Slick came out of the dressing room when they entered the ring and when they saw him, they chased him back. I have no idea what's going on there.

bobby Heenan is back in control of Andre the Giant's contract and he will feud with Jim Duggan. Also in a match between Rick Rude and Koko B Ware (that was so exciting I almost forgot to list it), Heenan went to steal Frankie and the Bulldogs came out with mathilda and chased Heenan back to the dressing room. rude saw this and went after the bulldogs to be counted out of the ring. That match was taped for TV.

I'm told the return card to Springfield will be May 14 and will feature a title change (huh?), but I have little more information than that. Attendance for this card was just shy of a sell out with 8,504 paid and a gate of \$113,000 and some change. The arena lost around 600 seats due to cameras (I couldn't see that many were lost but that's what the folks at the arena told me).

WRESTLEMANIA IV

The title of the last report could f't here too...just change the name Springfield to Atlantic City and we're off and running. Or in the case of wrestlemania...off and walking.

20 MAN BATTLE ROYAL...I don't really like battle royals in the first place, especially when they open a card. These guys in the thing must have liked it because they worked for their minute and a half and then had the rest of the day to blow their Wrestlemania paycheck in the casinos. Now I know why Donald Trump agreed to host the show. It went 9:44 and came down to Junk yard Dog, Bad News Brown and Bret Hart. The two heels eliminated JYD and they shook hands like they were going to split the money. Bad New though, then hit Bret with an enziguri (rolling kick to the back of the head) and Bret flew out over the top rope. Bret retaliated by busting up the seven foot tall trophy that went to the winner. One suggestion for next year, Vince. Don't spend so much money on the trophy...go with a cheaper one that's easier to bust.

TED DIBIASE VS JIM DUGGAN...the first match of the tournament. It went 5:01 and didn't set any records for workrate. Andre was at ringside with Ted and he kept bothering Duggan. The end came with Duggan getting the upper hand and going into his three point football stance. Unfortunately, he did it right by Andre and Andre grabbed his foot. He turned around to go after Andre and Ted hit him with a knee in the kidney area. Ted got the pin.

DON MURACO VS DINO BRAVO...Bravo looked terrible and the match was done almost in slow motion. It went 4:37 before Bravo pulled the referee in between him and a flying forearm by Muraco and was DQ'd.

GREG VALENTINE VS RICKY STEAMBOAT...Steamboat's inactivity over the past few months became quite obvious as he was not as fluid as he usually is. Valentine was okay, as was Steamboat, but the fact is, their timing was just a hair off. The match went 9:11 and may have been the second best match on the card. End came with a Steamboat cross body block from the top rope which Valentine used the momentum from to roll Ricky over in to a pin. Gorilla said Valentine used Rick's tights, but I didn't see it.

RANDY SAVAGE VS BUTCH REED...Reed wasn't good at all and this amounted to little more than a 4:08 squash match. The crowd popped for Savage (or maybe it was for Liz). End came when Reed mounted the ropes and Savage caught him, slammed him and followed it up with an elbow off the top rope.

ONE MAN GANG VS BAM BAM BIGELOW...the shortest match of the night at 3:03. Bigelow wasn't moving well because of his knee and Gang didn't seem interested. Still, for a couple of big men, it wasn't that bad. The end came with Bigelow going for a rebound off the ropes and Slick pulling down the top rope, sending Bigelow flying backwards out of the ring. Talk about a crazy move for someone with a bad knee! When he tried to climb back in the ring, Gang wouldn't let him and Bam Bam wound up getting counted out. I thought the ref was supposed to stop the count when the other wrestler interfered, but not in the WWF, I guess.

RICK RUDE VS JAKE ROBERTS...Rick Rude's tights with a lady's face air brushed on the back of them were too distracting. I'm not one to look at a guy's butt, so I tried not to watch. It was probably for the better that way. They went to a fifteen minute draw which went 15:16. Actually the last couple of minutes weren't half bad.

HERCULES VS ULTIMATE WARRIOR...If you're a fan of the clothesline, this was the match for you. That seems to be the only move these two guys know. You'd think if it was their entire repertoire, they would have perfected it. Not so. The end of the match came at 4:37 when Hercules had the full nelson on Dingbat. Dingbat ran to the corner and jumped on the turnbuckles and pushed off with both men on their backs. Then came the famous Moolah-Richter finish. The first 4:34 was horrid. One thing though...Dingbat ran all the way to the ring and I'm surprised that he didn't blow up (he was breathing hard though).

HULK HOGAN VS ANDRE...This was probably the worst of their three matches. It only went 5:24 and at one point I was extremely concerned about Andre's health. Hogan was doing some bounces off the ropes to punch Andre and Andre, for no apparent reason, went to one knee then all the way down. Hogan stopped dead in his tracks so I don't think that part was pre arranged. The end was a double DQ finish with Virgil distracting the ref and Ted jumping in the ring and clobbering Hulk with a chair. Hogan didn't sell it and DiBiase scooted out of the ring leaving the chair behind. Hogan used it to hit Andre then Andre got it, hit Hogan and Hogan got it again and returned the favor. The referee DQ'd both men at this point and the winner of the whole tournament was then obvious.

TED DIBIASE VS DON MURACO...Ted made Muraco look great. Don finally got off his duff and worked a little during this one too. The match went 5:31 and ended with Ted catching Don in a hot shot off the ropes. This match was a perfect example of how a sales job can get your opponent over. Ted made Rock look great when selling moves, yet Ted wouldn't have looked so good to the marks because Muraco just didn't sell like Ted can..

RANDY SAVAGE VS GREG VALENTINE...I thought this was the best match on the card. Both guys were working hard, although you could tell Savage was holding back. Still, Savage took a couple of bumps that no one else on the whole card matched. This one went 6:11 and ended with Valentine holding the upper hand for the last couple of minutes. He went for a figure four but Savage hooked him and rolled him into a small package. Savage had him tied up so good that I don't think Valentine could have kicked out if he would have had to.

HONKY TONK MAN VS BRUTUS BEEFCAKE...It wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be, but then again, I figured we were set for the Nightmare on Elm Street. We got 9:11 of "not good". Again I was distracted by Brutus' ridiculous outfit. The only thing that saved this match was Jesse's commentary. The end came with Brutus getting the sleeper on HTM in the center of the ring. Honky was out and set for a title change when Jimmy Hart jumped up on the ring apron and distracted the ref. The Ref turned around to go back to the match and Hart nailed him with the megaphone. HTM went to sleep (luck him) and Brutus went after Hart. He caught him and ended up snipping off the back of his hair. The referee disqualified HTM for Hart's actions so HTM retains the title and still owes Vince McMahon for refusing to do the job in Indianapolis.

ISLANDERS/BOBBY HEENAN VS BULLDOGS/KOKO WARE...This wasn't bad. I especially enjoyed it when DB Smith was in against Haku. Heenan added comedy for the most part, coming to the ring in an attack-dog trainers outfit. That took away some of the drama of the match. This one went 7:20 with Heenan in for the last few minutes getting beat to a pulp by Koko. The Islanders came in to interfere and the Bulldogs came in to help Koko. The Islanders disposed of the Bulldogs and while the ref's back was turned, they picked up Heenan and dropped him on a prone Koko. Heenan got the pin over Koko..

STRIKE FORCE VS DEMOLITION...A swerve (inside joke) on us editors. Since Strike Force came out on the TV tapes with the belts, we had figured there wouldn't be a title change. But after talking with Mike Miller (the guy who went with us to the tapings) we figured it out. Remember I said earlier that Slick had come out and SF chased him back to the dressing rooms? Well, they hadn't been announced yet. When they came back out, they didn't have the belts and then they were announced. How bout that. Anyway, the match was decent and Demolition didn't overpower the belts away. The crowd wasn't in to the match it seemed and I was getting a little bored myself. After watching it a second time, I did upgrade the match slightly. The end came at 8:03 when Martel had the Boston crab on Darsow. Santana and Eadie were fighting on the other side of the ring and the ref got knocked down. Fuji interfered and took care of Tito while Eadie got loose, got the cane and hit Martel. He put Darsow on top and the ref recovered long enough to count the fall.

ONE MAN GANG VS RANDY SAVAGE...This one was before the last one, but I forgot to type it in. Even Savage couldn't save this one. He appeared to be resting up for the final. Gang was DQ'd for using Slick's cane even though he never hit Savage with it. He kept stabbing it downward and Randy kept moving out of the way. It had its moments but they were short and not sustained. The crowd seemed disinterested mainly because I think they had it figured out that the final couldn't be between DiBiase and Gang.

RANDY SAVAGE VS TED DIBIASE...How many of you realized that this was the championship match from the Wrestling Forum tournament. The outcome was different though. A good match, but the live crowd surprised me. Andre was at ringside with Ted and he kept tripping Macho Man. Finally, Randy sent Liz back to get Hogan and when she came back out with Hulk, the crowd didn't really pop. Then again, why should they? They knew it was coming and they'd seen it happen twice before. The end was at 9:20 when DiBiase had the cobra hold on Savage. Andre distracted the referee and Hogan slid in the ring and clobbered Ted with the chair just like Ted had done to him earlier. Ted went down like a ton of brick, Randy mounted the top ropes and an elbow drop and three seconds later, Wrestlemania IV was history.

We've got our grades on another page so you can compare them all together. But here's some additional comments.

Vince failed. Crockett won. I've talked with more than 20 subscribers over the phone who saw both shows and the consensus is unanimous. Crockett played his ace in the hole and trumped (pardon the pun) McMahon. Vince played to the glitz of Atlantic City and the large amount of non wrestling fans who were there hurt the crowd reaction along with the excitement conveyed to the viewers at home. Those who saw the show at closed circuit locations tell me the crowds there were very vocal, but Vince was playing towards the Pay Per View market since that's where the profit was (no overhead with building rentals as with Closed circuit). This was the first time Vince has made such a tactical error. He's going to regret it...it may have cost him a few million, not only on this show, but on live gates over the next few months.

At work, I was able to get the opinion of a bunch of marks. Those who saw only Wrestlemania were pretty much in agreement that it wasn't that great of a show. One guy I talked with thought it was the worst of the four (he saw each on closed circuit). Those that saw both shows (I had let them know about Crockett's show on TBS) thought that the NWA was much better as well. One guy in particular said, "You know, that guy Flair can really wrestle!".

Another interesting note. The finish of WMIV was almost changed. The WWF magazine ran a pictorial on Elizabeth this month and the opening line said "We asked the lovely Elizabeth, manager of world wrestling federation champion Randy Savage...". Whoops. They let the finish loose ahead of time. No Problem, except that the Associated Press picked up the story and blabbed it to the entire nation a week ahead of time. Vince just about had kittens when he got wind of that and he was looking for someone to fire on account of it. Friday night, a meeting was held to see if it was feasible to change the ending. The only other choice was Hogan as all the rest had appeared on the TV tapings without the belt. They are dead set on people thinking that those damn TV shows are done that same morning as they are being shown. Anyway, they couldn't figure out what to do on such short notice so they went with the original plan. I'm also told that Randy may hold the belt a little longer than we had originally thought. Speculation is that he'll drop the title, probably to DiBiase in July for Hogan to win back on August 29th. Right now, it would appear that that decision will be made after they see how well Savage will draw as champion. Hogan will draw with or without the belt.

As for the alleged talent raid coming up, don't look for anything to happen for a few weeks at least. They have shows taped for TV through the end of April so May will be the first we'll have the opportunity to see any new faces., if in fact there are any.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

We continue this issue with a few WAPT's from last issue that were left over. The writer chose to remain anonymous (I know, but the name is withheld) and he bases his observations on his contact with WWF wrestlers during the seventies. Here are this issue's Wrestlers Are People Too:

JOHNNY V

He was still John L. Sullivan in those days and was just embarking on his heel career. He grabbed and broke countless PA mikes to put himself over with insults directed at his opponent and the crowd. Very inventive in an off-the-wall sort of way; should have been bigger as a manager or TV commentator.

DONNIE FARGO

Hard living, hard partying, he didn't care about anyone and didn't seem to mind if those feelings were reciprocated. He was considered a hard case by the other guys, most of whom steered clear of him. Always had the impression he'd be doing time if he weren't in the business.

BARON SCICLUNA

Solid person and one of the most popular guys among the wrestlers. Everyone could and did imitate his raspy, whispery voice (the result of a legit kick in the ring) but he was genuinely liked. Tried to avoid fans because he was a soft touch and that conflicted with his heel identity. He and Bruno loved to top each other in the ring and had a hard time keeping straight faces while doing it. Never a good worker, but he was a conditioning fanatic who took pride in maintaining his physique despite advancing years. Was probably too nice in the ring, even though he was a heel. Oversold everything and threw only the lightest blows at an opponent. Really was born in Malta and liked to talk about the country, which he often visited on vacation.

PART TWO THIS ISSUE COMES FROM YET ANOTHER SOURCE WHO HAS ELECTED TO REMAIN NAMELESS.

BARRY WINDHAM

This is one of the nicest guys you'd ever want to meet. But don't try talking wrestling to him. He'll shut you out. He doesn't care whether you're a mark or a smart. He just doesn't like to talk about wrestling outside the ring. I don't know whether or not this has changed since he left the WWF or not, but I met him on several occasions while he was there and he would just clam up.

LOU ALBANO

As a heel, he pretty well carried his role outside the ring, especially if you mentioned wrestling to him. You had to know him pretty well in order for him to open up.

SGT. SLAUGHTER

Quiet and reserved. As a heel, he tried to keep out of the spotlight. As a face, his head swelled and I don't ever think he'll be the same. Very self-conscious about the bald spot on top of his head. I once introduced him to a friend who had been in the Marines and he liked to have talked his leg off, boning up on his character. He was still a heel at the time.

REPORT CARD

Before getting into staff grades, let me set this up. I watched both shows and have graded both. Sean went to a closed circuit location in Boston to view Wrestlemania only. Ed Garea saw WMIV on Pay Per View. Jeff Siegel watched only the NWA Clash of Champions. Here are how we graded the proceedings:

MATCH	JON	ED	SEAN
Battle Royal	C-	Z	B-
DiBiase v Duggan	C	D+	B-
Bravo v Muraco	D+	ZZ	C+
Steamboat v Valentine	C+	C+	B-
Savage v Reed	C-	C	C
Gang v Bigelow	C	ZZ	D+
Roberts v Rude	C+	Z	B-
Hercules v Warrior	F	ZZZ	D-
INTERMISSION	-	B	-
Hulk v Andre	D+	Z	C-
DiBiase v Muraco	C+	C	C+
Savage v Valentine	B-	C+	B-
Beefcake v Honky Tonk Man	D+	Z	C+
Islander/Heenan v Dogs/Koko	B-	D+	B-
Savage v Gang	C-	D	D
Demolition v Strike Force	C+	C	B-
Savage v DiBiase	B-	C+	B

"Z" ratings are the equivalent of negative ratings...The more Z's, the worse the match.

NWA CLASH OF CHAMPIONS

MATCH	JON	JEFF
Rotundo v Garvin	C-	C-
Midnight Express v Fantastics	B+	A-
Dusty/Road Warriors v Koloff/Warlord/barbarian	C-	D
Tully/Arn v Barry/Lex	B	B-
Sting v Flair	A-	A

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PULSE ON PORTLAND
by Greg Anderson

The only card I can report on is the 3/12 Portland show as on 3/19 there were technical difficulties and the card that night could not be taped for TV. They showed a tape from December of 1984 that they had made for just such an occasion. We do have some other news items to report to help fill the space.

We can now report that the two Destroyers working here were two wrestlers that were already here. Number one, as we told you last time is Joey Jackson. The second one is C. W. Bergstrom (the worst worker on the circuit). I guess this shows how bad they needed new "faces". Booker Len Denton is now apparently using his ties with his former employers at World Class to secure talent as Matt Borne recently returned and Al Madril was set to come back on the 3/19 Portland card.

In action on the 12th, Mike Golden and Avalanche met Scott Peterson and Steve Dahl in a non title event. Ref Sandy Barr took a bump out of the ring and Golden put Peterson out of action on the arena floor. In the ring, Dahl leaped from the top rope on to Avalanche and covered him, but there was no ref to count the pinfall. Dahl got up and went over to the ropes to see what happened at this point. Golden re-entered the ring with a folding chair and he whacked Steve across the back with the weapon and put Av on top of Steve. Of course, Barr then came to his senses and counted the fall. This then set up a title match for 3/19. By the way, Fantasy (Lisa Golden) is not acting as her husband's valet in the territory.

Next Matt Borne faced Art Barr in a scientific match between two second generation wrestlers from Oregon. Matt applied an abdominal stretch when the Grappler appeared, clobbered Matt from behind, and then bodyslammed Art. Grappler loaded up his boot, but Borne slugged him before he could deliver his kick. Borne whipped Grappler into the ropes and the hooded heel tried kicking him as Matt prepared to backdrop him. Borne, however, grabbed the foot and slugged away at his foe. Grappler then fled to the dressing room. On a post fracas (or should I say, between fracasuses) interview, Matt said he wanted Grappler back in the ring for a match that same night. Then he staged a sit in at mid ring and was prepared to stay there until Grappler accepted his challenge. The next match was supposed to be Golden vs CoCo Samoa and both men were in the ring waiting. Golden ordered Matt out of the ring and took a swing at him. Borne ducked the blow and clobbered the bleached blond and for good measure, Samoa head butted Golden out of the ring. As Borne was distracted by this, Grappler emerged and attacked Borne. The two foes then resumed their earlier brawl both in and out of the ring. Borne slugged Grappler twice with a folding chair and they brawled into the crowd until Grappler fled again. A sanctioned match between the two was then set for 3/19.

FLASH!! Rip Oliver, Mike Miller and Joey Jackson all have left Owens and are switching to Billy Jack Haynes' new OWWF (Oregon-Washington Wrestling Federation). Other wrestlers rumored to be heading in for Haynes include Brad Rheingans (who is definitely an instructor at Haynes' wrestling camp), Chavo Guerrero, Brady Boone (who did appear at the latest Titan TV tapings...the latter two wrestlers could have some great matches), Kevin Kelly, J. T. Southern, and the Memphis Big Bubba. Haynes has also contacted Curt Hennig, Tom Zenk, and Mahan Singh about coming in as well although Hennig refused. Buddy Rose has been trying to settle his differences with Don Owens and wants to return to the territory. Owens is actually contemplating giving Rose another chance due to the recent departures. I, for one, am excited about this promotional war.

Rip Oliver did a job for the Assassin in the 3/12 main event in his last Owens match. Finally, Curt Hennig could not wrestle the Grappler in the 3/5 rematch due to his back and neck injuries. So, Assassin took his place and "won the title" for Hennig when he pinned Grappler.

WHAT!!!

books, it'll be quite interesting to see how "WrestleMania IV" and "Clash of the Champions"--as well as their respective components--fare in next month's "Barometer". It'd be nice to see a rash of first-time voters get involved for the occasion.

The deadline for those March "Barometer" ballots is April 22. As always, entries and comments should be sent to:

Jeff Siegel
P.O. Box 5461
Evanston, IL 60204

WORLD CLASS

Terry Gordy has returned and as I type this he hasn't made a decision as to who he will side with in the Freebirds split up. The angle they're running revolves around the Micheal Hayes concert where Buddy hit Micheal with a guitar by mistake while swinging at Kerry Von Erich. Supposedly Buddy was drunk (at least according to Micheal's version of the story) and it was his fault the concert was ruined. Of course, Buddy blames things on the Von Erichs. Gordy came back and came out during one of Buddy's interviews and tried to get the right story. He asked Buddy if he had been drunk, and Iceman stepped in and swore up and down that Buddy hadn't been drinking. The big mystery here is who Gordy will end up believing. I'm betting he goes with Buddy and Iceman.

Gordy was also pitted against Kerry and his new Worth-Las belt upon his return for the Star Wars card on March 20. Details are sketchy as all I have is a newspaper report (and we know how they are manipulated by the Von Erich family) but what apparently happened is after a ref bump, Gordy gave Kerry a piledriver on the arena floor and then threw him back in the ring. The referee had seen the whole thing though, and dQ'd Gordy.

World Class is now being broadcast locally (sort of locally) out of Burlington Iowa on a low power JHF station (the program director must be a wrestling nut...they also carry PWIW, NWA World Wide, and POWW). They just do make it to Knoxville over the air and I can get either sound (no picture) or picture (very snowy) and no sound. I need to turn my antennae around their way I guess, although the no sound part is sometimes a blessing in disguise, not having to put up with Mark Lowrance. I am going to start getting tapes regularly again, so these reports should be more up to date in the near future.!!

Black Bart is a newcomer once again. He left Crockett and I don't think anyone over there has noticed yet. His role here is yet to be determined (definitely a heel though how he will fit in is still up in the air).

Lance was also scheduled to return but I understand he's missed a couple of dates. It's probaby just as well because I don't think they've found a last name for him yet. I suppose they could say that they didn't think he was a Von Erich, but they had finally found his adoption papers and he really is again.

And finally, they have unified the Wild West tag belts with the Texas tag belts when the Simpson Brothers beat Jack Victory and John tatum. The Simpsons were the Wild West Champions so now it's another victory for the Wild West over World Class. The title change took place on the March 20th card.

One more thing...there will be yet another David and Mike Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions on May 8. This year, let's hope they forget the mud wrestling, huh?

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

3-12 PHILADELPHIA (WWF) - courtesy of Jammie Ward...SD Jones pinned Johnny V...Jumping Bomb Angels over Glamour Girls...Dino Bravo beat Koko B Ware...Killer Bees downed the Bolshiviks...Muraco/Bigelow beat Reed/One Man Gang...Beefcake beat Valentine by DQ...Hogan pinned DiBiase...NOTES: Muraco pinned Reed in the tag match...Hogan vs DiBiase was a lumberjack match and during the match the Bees attacked Hogan...they were wearing their masks and Jammie swears it was counter-feit Bees.

3-14 DETROIT (WWF) - courtesy of Beth Sackett... Scott Casey pinned Barry Horowitz...Young Stallions over the Conquistadors...Sherri martel beat Rockin Robin...Rick Rude downed Ken Patera...Islanders by DQ over the Bulldogs ...Rude and Roberts went to a double count out...Strike Force/Randy Savage beat Hart Foundation/Honky Tonk...NOTES: Last match same one that's gone around the country in a cage...Rude had to wrestle twice due to the no show of Hercules...he won the first match after Bobby Heenan interfered.

3-17 LOS ANGELES (NWA) - courtesy of Robert Read...Mando Guerro drew Tony Rocco...Rick Steiner squashed Pistol Pete...Larry Z pinned Ron Garvin...Lex and Barry beat Tully and ASrn by DQ...Road Warriors defeated Warlord and Barbarian...Flair pinned Sting...NOTES: Attendance 1800...Steiner match was wild highlighted by the ring stairs being broken... They used the JJ shoe bit for the finish of the tag match...in Road Warriors match, Pual Ellering pinned Paul Jones, neither of whom was in the match...Flair got his pin with JJ's interference

3-13 ALBUQUERQUE (WWF) - courtesy of Jimmy Kellogg...Hillbilly Jim beat Sika...Junk Yard Dog by DQ over Bad News Brown...Dan Spivey downed Lanny Poffo...Danny Davis defeated Sam Houston...the Rougeau Brothers pinned Demolition...Ultimate Warrior over Harley Race...Duggan by count out over Ron Bass...Duggan won a free for all bunk-house battle royal...NOTES: Attendance 2151...exact same card was presented the following night in Clovis NM...the crowd in Albuquerque was "bored to tears" while the crowd in Clovis was receptive...In the Alb. Battle Royal, Demolition tied Sam Houston to the ring ropes then tried to depants him...this had not been planned as Sam was pretty hot about it later.

3-19 CHICAGO (NWA) - courtesy of Lance LeVine...Ivan Koloff over Shane Douglas...Steiner beat Kendall Windham (B)...Midnights beat Garvins (B)...Arn drew Barry (A)...Lex beat Tully by DQ (C)...Dusty beat Rotunda by DQ (C)...Flair beat Sting (B)...Road Warriors beat Warlord/Barbarian...NOTES: Attendance 8000...Road Warriors match was a lumberjack match...Kendall Windham had no clue as to what a lumber jack was supposed to do...when one of the Warriors got thrown out, he went and helped put him back in while all the heels stood back and looked at him kinda funny...Barry and Arn were excellent as Arn put Barry in a spinebuster and a DDT...Barry sent Arn through a ringside table.

3-19 MARENGO, IL (IND) - courtesy of Ron Dobratz...Gary Lawler over Stormy Granzig...Beach Boys/Frank Melson beat Texas Hangmen/Master Blaster...Candi Devine over Awesome Ony...Larry Cameron beat Johnny Love Terminators beat Windy City Dream Team...Col DeBeers won a battle royal...JT Southern over Spike Huber by DQ...NOTES: Sold out high school gym sponsored by Chamber of Commerce...good card overall.

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MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Let's take care of last issue's trivia question before we get on with other stuff...the question was "What music did Gorgeous George use when coming to the ring?" We gave a hint that it was still being used today although in a different version. The answer is "Pomp and Circumstances" which is the music used by current WWF champ Randy Savage (and also used by most high schools at graduation ceremonies). This issue's question comes from Ed Garea. He wants to know what best selling writer started off as a wrestling writer for the New York Times. Answer next time around.

Ever wonder what ever happened to Chicago promoter Bob Luce? He's doing TV commercials locally here in the Peoria area for Sprint Print. Subscriber Royal Duncan is the owner of Sprint Print and naturally a big wrestling fan. The commercials feature Luce doing a man on the street interview asking a Tammy Faye Bakker lookalike about TV evangelists. It's not anything like the Ben's commercials he used to do, but still not bad for a locally produced spot. And just for the record, the Tammy Faye lookalike is NOT Moose Cholak in drag.

A little info on how Wrestlemania did on a local basis. In Peoria they cancelled the closed circuit location a few weeks in advance due to poor ticket sales. In the LaSalle-Peru, Illinois area they had a phenomenal 14% buy rate. Peoria reportedly had about a 6% rate. The Knoxville-Galesburg area also did 14%. Now how these numbers are arrived at is something else. Are these percentages the result of the buy rate of the total system or of just those who have the addressable converters needed to descramble the show? The Galesburg office for our local cable TV outlet told me that they had a 2 1/2% buy rate for the total system, but among those with the addressable boxes, a 14% rate. This gives a little more credence to the old saying, "Figures lie and liars figure".

Congratulations go out to Ray Whebbe and his new bride. They recently flew to Las Vegas for their wedding ceremony. Ray is the Pro Wrestling America promoter in the Twin Cities.

Can I do a quick plug for myself? Of course I can...this is my bulletin. I'm looking for a copy of the 1974 movie "The Wrestler" starring Verne Gagne and the AWA stars along with Ed Asner. I'm not necessarily looking to trade (because my collection of tapes is so lousy), but mainly interested in just seeing the movie. If you have access to a copy, let me know.

Jeff Bowdren called after Wrestlemania to say that he didn't put together a Global report for this issue mainly due to his work schedule. With all the stuff we had to bring you this time, we were limited on space anyway, but Jeff tells me they are having one of their marathon TV tapings this week so we'll definitely have a report next time around.

For those of you in the UAWF, the first copy of the UAWF magazine is being put together right now. I have most of the reports and the only thing left to do is to typeset it and paste it up before printing. I should be to you within the next couple of weeks. If you haven't joined yet, send \$15.00 to PO Box 215, Galesburg, IL 61402. You'll get four quarterly issues of the magazine plus a bunch of other benefits as well. Be sure to include your birthdate along with your membership dues.

Here's a quick update out of the USA promotion out of the other Knoxville (the one in Tennessee). Doug Furnace is feuding with Buddy Landell (who has been given about 42 second chances now, let's hope this time he doesn't blow it). Landell is using the old Ted DiBiase routine of the loaded glove. Also, The Rock and Roll RPM's are feuding with Johnny and Dave Rich (Davey Haskins) and reportedly are having

some good matches in their feud as well.

Late word in on the status of the year book. It would appear that the postal service has misplaced several copies. We are currently printing up a limited number and will be sending those out to those of you who haven't received them yet. For those of you who have called and wanted to order a copy, there will be a few available. I would suggest that you send the extra buck for the first class service as the post office gives new meaning to the words "third class." Those should be mailed out the middle of next week or so.

It's not only the big promotins that have their power squabbles, but the little ones as well. Eddie Sharkey has run the PWA for some time now, but he let another man buy into it. A power play has resulted in the past few weeks and basically what it comes down to is that Eddie has the Terminators and a few new guys left while the rest of the PWA crew have broken off and are running shows independent of Sharkey. A European tour has even been set up for some of the guys for April 12-May 5 and will cover France, Austria, West Germany and Italy. Hmmm. Wonder if they need Synbad T. Eccentric to do some managing for them during that time?

Next issue I'm planning out a page or two devoted to readers comments on Super Sunday past. I'm especially interested in hearing from anyone who liked the Wrestlemania show because of all the negative things I've been saying about it and and from all the comments I've taken over the phone. I'm sure I'm not hearing from every faction and I'd like to get some varying viewpoints, not just mine or those who share my views.

One more thing...for those of you who have requested plugs, here's the easy way to do it. From now on, put your request on a 3 x 5 card. That makes it easier for us to handle. This past week we did some desk cleaning and a lot of the old requests got pitched. I try not to run more than two or three reader requests per issue because when I do, they seem to lose their impact. By the way, anyone who has received mailings from a William Loeb, contact me. We now know who he is and the postal inspector is ready to procecute.

That's it for this time. Whew! See ya in 14.

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